

Appl. No. 10/549,576  
Amdt. dated June 16, 2010  
Reply to Office action of March 17, 2010

**REMARKS**

Claims 22-23, 25-27, 29-35 and 37-45 remain in this application.

In the Office action of March 17, 2010 the examiner rejected:

claim 22, 23, 25, 29-31, 33-35, 44 and 45 as unpatentable over Hirota et al. in view of Cadman et al. and Fountain-Barber.

claim 26 as unpatentable over Hirota et al. in view of Cadman et al., Fountain-Barber, and Lauer et al.,

claims 32 and 38 as unpatentable over Hirota et al. in view of Cadman et al., Fountain-Barber, and Jay et al.,

claims 27, 39, 41 and 42 as unpatentable over Hirota et al. in view of Cadman et al., Fountain-Barber and Yie,

claim 40 as unpatentable over Hirota et al. in view of Cadman et al. and Fountain Barber and Lindeboom, and

claims 37 and 43 as unpatentable over Hirota et al. in view of Cadman et al., Fountain-Barber and Platt et al.

By this amendment, each of claims 22, 31, 44 and 45 have been amended by addition of language which particularly describes that the valve holder embraces the valve insert from outside, that the valve holder is formed of subregions having different diameters, and that these subregions of different diameters form a step-like transition of the valve holder, which step-like transition is seats and surrounds a portion of the valve insert, thus establishing a particular connection between the valve insert and the valve holder.

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The insertions within the following quotation from the claims "... the subregion (16b) of the valve holder (1) embraces the valve insert (2) from the outside, so that the steplike transition of the valve holder (1) formed by the different diameter regions (diameters D1, D2) is seated on and surrounds a portion of the valve insert (2) for establishing the connection between the valve insert (2) and the valve holder (1) ...," are disclosed in paragraph 20 of the specification at lines 9-11. This language clearly defines that the step-like transition establishes a connection between the valve holder and the valve insert, and in fact that the valve insert is positioned inside at least a portion of the valve holder, and seats against the stepped transition. Clearly the defined spatial relationship between the valve holder and the valve insert is a relationship which none of the prior art teaches.

These claims recite that the valve insert is disposed inside the valve holder which is a distinction that none of the prior art teaches.

In addition, this language distinguishes over the prior art by the recitation of the step-like transition of the valve holder (1) formed by the different diameter regions (diameters D1, D2) being seated on the valve insert. Again, none of the prior art teaches such a relationship.

In addition, claim 22 has been further amended by the addition of recitation that the flat places extend over only a portion of the length of the valve piston. This language has been taken essentially from paragraph 23 of the specification, at lines 3-4, and restricts the invention to very specific limitations.

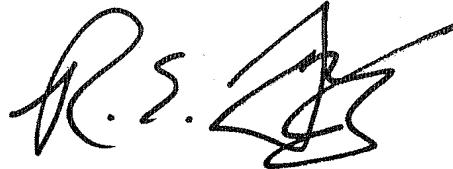
And even further, by the provision now included in claim 22, according to which the flat places 3a extend over only a portion of the length of the valve piston 3, the subject of claim 22 is distinguished over the Fountain-Barber reference because in Fountain-Barber,

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although the valve piston does have flat places 14, they nevertheless extend over the entire length of the piston. In the Cadman et al. reference as well, the openings embodied between the ribs 48 extend over the entire length of the valve piston 39. Because the flat places 3a of the application extend over only a portion of the length of the valve piston 3, a pressure curve in accordance with applicants' Fig. 2 is obtained, which is virtually independent of the flow rate. In particular, a greater flow rate, ensuing with a time lag, is attained because of the flat places not extending over the entire length of the valve piston. As a result, the claimed structure makes it possible to use a pressure limiting valve with a suitably larger flow crosssection, and for larger pump delivery quantities as well. This is as disclosed in paragraph 23 of the specification.

For all of the above reasons, whether taken singly or in combination with each other, entry of this amendment and allowance of the claims are courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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